

CONRAD AND MAGDALENA  
MURRI ABEGGLE

Daughter of Christian Murri, Sr., and  
Magdalena Valsiger, born 1866 in Switzerland.  
Married Conrad Abegglen, Jr.

She came to Midway from Switzerland  
at 10 years of age in the year 1876. She  
lived with her uncle John Murri until her

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HOW

parents immigrated three and one-half years  
later.

Six children were born to Conrad and  
Magdalena while they lived in Midway.  
Conrad played the accordion very well. He  
was a miner. In 1896 they moved by wagon  
to St. Anthony, Idaho. They had ten more  
children making 16 in all. They were suc-  
cessful truck gardeners. Mr. Abegglen died  
early in life but Mrs. Abegglen lived to be  
87 years old.

After she was 60 she traveled to Canada  
to visit the LDS Temple in Cardston, Al-  
berta. Pres. Wood gave her a blessing and  
promised her that she would live to see a  
new chapel in her ward. At the time no  
thought had been given about a new chapel,  
but the prophecy was fulfilled and Mrs.  
Abegglen was the first person to have  
funeral services in the new building.

*Truck Gardener  
Played Accordion  
Miner*

GEORGE THOMPSON AND  
ELLEN MARIA WAGSTAFF  
BAKER



George Thompson Baker was born in Des Moines, Iowa, February 20, 1847, a son of George and Rhoda Ann Thompson Baker. Married Ellen Maria Wagstaff December 12, 1870 in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City. She was born July 15, 1852, at Caldicutte, Bedfordshire, England, a daughter of Samuel and Lucy Webb Wagstaff. George died Feb. 25, 1927 at Chapin, Idaho, and Ellen Maria died Nov. 21, 1925 in American Fork.

In the year 1850 George T., his mother,

*Gardener*

father and twin brother, John T. came to Utah and settled in Tooele. When John was six years of age he died and was buried in Tooele.

George T. helped his father, for he was the oldest in the family. They boiled the water of Great Salt Lake near Black Rock to get salt for domestic use. He often went with his mother to gather sego bulbs for food. In 1865 the family moved to American Fork. His father was a blacksmith and George learned the trade.

George joined in the Black Hawk War and fought the Indians. He learned to speak the Indian language quite well.

Ellen Maria and her family embraced the gospel in England and as soon as they could save enough money, came to America on a sailing vessel, which took about six weeks. Ellen walked most of the way to Utah where they arrived after many hardships, in Oct. 1862. They soon went to American Fork where they did farming.

Ellen had very little schooling but was very adept in every kind of household task and sewing. After their marriage, George and Ellen built an adobe home in American Fork.

Nymphus C. Murdock of Charleston had heard that George was an excellent blacksmith so he went to American Fork to urge him to come to Charleston where a blacksmith was badly needed. After a time George decided to go. They spent two days driving there. They lived over the Murdock store till George could build a home which they moved into in 1883. Ellen clerked in N. C. Murdock's store and George blacksmithed and farmed. Later they built a larger home and kept travelers. George prided himself on raising the best of everything to use on the table, including vegetables, small fruits and honey. He raised the first grapes in Charleston.

George worked to get free schooling for children through taxation. He believed in education and was determined his girls should have good schooling.

They were parents of three girls: Ellen Melvina, Lucy Amanda and Fanny Ladacy.

George Thompson BAKER  
Ellen Maria Wagstaff

Gardener

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JOHN GEORGE AND  
BARBARA BAUER

John George Bauer was born August 4, 1834, in Germany. He died in Salt Lake City, December 27, 1915, at the age of 81. Barbara Bauer was born January 10, 1840, in Germany. She died November 5, 1929, at the age of 89 in Salt Lake City. Mr. and Mrs. Bauer joined The Church



of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Germany in 1887 and immediately began saving for the trip to America and Zion. They were the parents of 11 children, six of whom died in youth. Four of their five living children emigrated with them to Utah. When they came to Utah they settled in Provo, living in an old adobe house owned by Professor Karl G. Maeser, who employed John as a gardener at Brigham Young University.

In the summer of 1889 they moved to Midway to keep house for Otto Harter. When he married in 1901 they moved into a home by the John Van Wagoner store, where they lived until 1912 when they moved to Salt Lake City to be near the temple. They continued in temple work until their deaths. Their children who came to America included:

Margaret Hausman  
Magdalena Bauer Besendorfer  
Ester Gumbman and her husband Sixtus  
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William Beeler was the son-in-law of Moroni and Mary McOlney. It is reported

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JOHN LEONHARDT AND  
MAGDALENA BAUER  
BESSENDORFER



John Leonhardt Besendorfer, son of George Leonhardt Besendorfer and Walburga Glosch, singer Besendorfer. Born August 3, 1858, Burglein, Bavaria, Germany. Married Magdalena Bauer, March 12, 1894. Died January 29, 1914, Midway.

Magdalena Bauer, daughter of John George Bauer and Barbara Wedel Schwarz. Born June 11, 1867, in Almoshof, Nuremberg, Bavaria, Germany. Died February 26, 1953, Salt Lake City, Utah, buried in Midway.

John Besendorfer joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Germany in 1892 and came the next year to America, settling in Midway, where he developed a farm.

Magdalena came with her parents to America in 1887 and was employed in a hotel by the noted singer Emma Lucy Gates. She was married to John in Midway in 1894 and on April 6, 1897, their marriage was solemnized in the Salt Lake Temple.

During 1910 and 1912 John was called by the Church to fill a mission in Germany. He died just two years after returning from the mission.

After her husband's death Magdalena turned their farm over to the oldest son, Andrew, and moved to Salt Lake City with her other children where she was very active in Relief Society and temple work. Children of John Leonhardt Besendorfer and Magdalena Bauer Besendorfer: Andrew Besendorfer, married Nellie Casper

FREDERICK SCHOTT AND  
HARRIET PHOEBE BIBBY  
CONRAD

Frederick Schott Conrad was born to Joshua and Eve Rodfong Conrad at Seneca County, New York, January 18, 1818—the birthplace of the Mormon Church. During his youth he moved westward through Pennsylvania and Michigan, locating for a few years near Detroit. While a youth, he played mumblepeg with the Prophet Joseph Smith.

While busying himself in agriculture during his sojourn in Michigan, he became interested in the stories about California's gold. So he joined in the gold rush to California



in 1848, but did not reach his destination and settled at Provo.

Harriet Phoebe Bibby Conrad was born in London, England, April 5, 1847, to George and Ann Bubb Bibby. Her father died when she was a young girl. In 1862 she, with her mother and brother George, emigrated to the United States on the John Boyd sailing vessel, being six weeks on the ocean. They then crossed the plains to Utah by independent train, under Captain Wherham, settling in Provo that same year. Her brother, George, drove the ox team most of the way. Her mother, Ann, was a straw hat maker for men, women, and children. She would gather the straw, soak it, put it through a press, hand sew and shape it over the molds to the desired shape and style. She made hats for Queen Victoria and her family. Ann's sister was a tutor for the queen's family.

It was at Provo where Frederick S. Conrad met Harriet P. Bibby and they were married in Salt Lake City, July 14, 1871. They then moved to Heber. Mr. Conrad, besides being a farmer, was a cooper by trade. He made numerous articles from wood, such as tubs, barrels, etc., by cutting trees in the canyon and cutting them into desired lengths, which he would split into pieces and shave to fit for making desired products. All this work was done by hand. He made many staves and bottoms for wooden tubs—which was the kind used in those days—for residents of town. He also split and shaved the shingles for the house now occupied by Josie Todd.

He took a great pride in raising a good garden. Among some of his products were strawberries, which he sold at from 8 to 10 cents a quart. Their home was a home of love and hospitality. Often fruit peddlers from Provo would make this home their

headquarters while disposing of their produce and they were always welcome, free of charge.

To this couple were born six children, besides one by Harriet's former marriage. Two were still living in February, 1958.

Frederick S. Conrad died July 31, 1902, and Harriet P. Conrad died September 22, 1938, at the age of 91, after being bedfast for six years, brought on by a broken ankle. She was always very patient and independent throughout her life and during all those years as an invalid she was very patient.

Their children are: Henrietta McAfee, Eva Desmond; Joshua Frederick, married to Alotta Brown; Edwin Schott, unmarried; Mary Ann Blaine; George Francis (Frank), married to Emily Barzee, and Marriet Rosetta, Childs.

*Gardner*

## GEORGE A. AND LUCY SMITH WHITTAKER DAVIS

George A. Davis, son of Albert Wesley Davis and Melissa Jane Lambson, born July 7, 1877, in Salt Lake City. Died November 28, 1939.

Lucy Smith Whittaker, daughter of David Moroni Whittaker and Mary Ann Smith, born January 5, 1885, in Salt Lake City. Died February 6, 1927.

Their early youth was spent in Salt Lake City. They attended schools there. He also attended the LDS College.

Having worked in the Church, on March 15, 1899 George was ordained an Elder, in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, by Joseph F. Smith, and on December 10, 1899, he left for a mission to the Hawaiian Islands. While out on this work, the City of Honolulu was quarantined for Bubonic Plague, and he was called to go on guard line to guard the city to see that no one left. He was appointed a special police officer for three months and ten days until the close of the quarantine. From this work he was called back to mission headquarters, and given other duties. He was appointed over-seer of the Laie Plantation from April 15, 1901, to April 6, 1903, when he was released and appointed to preside over the Hilo, Hamakua, and Kohala conferences until August 14, 1903. He was released from his mission and returned home September 11, 1903.

On January 27, 1904, he was called to the Stake Mission for the Salt Lake Stake, and was set apart to this work by Joseph E. Taylor.

Upon arriving home from his mission he worked on the farm owned by his father. He started going with Lucy Smith Whittaker

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## MIDWAY BIOGRAPHIES

and they were married February 4, 1904, in the Salt Lake Temple. He continued in the farming, and they were both active in Church work.

The Davis family moved to Midway, May 6, 1916, purchasing the Maria Schoney Mitchell home in Stringtown where they lived until the death of their oldest son, George, in 1924. At that time they returned to Salt Lake.

George was active in civic and church affairs. He had a fine herd of Jersey dairy cows, and sold milk and cream to the Mutual Creamery Company. He was a director and president of the Citizen's Mercantile Co., a member of the Midway Town Board, a member of the Amusement Board of Midway and a member of the Genealogical Society of Midway.

In Church affairs he was a teacher and chorister of the Midway Second Ward and then served as second counselor to Bishop Jacob Probst in the Second Ward. He was also a leader in the High Priests group and the parent teacher in the Sunday School. He sang and preached at many funerals.

Mrs. Davis worked in the Primary, the Relief Society and the MIA of the Second Ward, and was known as a gentle, patient, sympathetic woman. Though she was partially blind she never complained, and always had a cheerful smile for everyone. She was particularly noted for her flower gardens.

Children of George and Lucy Davis included:

David Moroni, married Coraly Adamson and had three daughters:

Willard Wendell, married Allanson B. McKean and had three sons.

Lucile Davis, married to Charles Frank Parker, two children;

Albert Fielding Davis, married Fay Hepworth, had one child;

Nina Mary Davis, married to Ray Fred Kohler, had two children.

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Flower Gardener

PATRIARCH THOMAS  
HICKEN AND WIVES



Patriarch Thomas Hicken was the only child of Thomas Hicken, of Woodhouse, Leicestershire, England, and his wife, Ann Ward. He was born June 15, 1826, at Burton-on-the-Wolds, Leicestershire, England. His father was a Grenadier soldier in the British army about 20 years; fought in the Battle of Waterloo, and was awarded a silver and also a gold medal for meritorious service. These medals are still in the possession of members of the family in America. He also received a pension for his services in the British army.

When Thomas, Jr., was four, his mother died, and he lived with his father's sister Elizabeth, who was married to Robert Cumberland. They had no children. His opportunities to attend school were scarce, but he learned the stocking weaving trade early.

When about 19, he joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saint, being baptized February 15, 1845, by Thomas Ef-field. About this time, August, 1845, in the Whitwick Church, Leicestershire, England, he married Catherine Fewkes, daughter of Benjamin Fewkes and Culloden Ann Toon. Catherine was a stocking weaver, and though not strong, was an industrious woman and good housekeeper, very kind and affectionate in her disposition. She enjoyed

some of the gifts promised those who accept the gospel. She was a very good seamstress and taught her daughter. Together they made men's suits, dresses, hats and shoes. She died at Heber City on May 18, 1879, after an extended illness. She was mother of seven children.

In 1847, Thomas Hicken was ordained an Elder by Crandall Dunn and sustained as president of the Whitwick Branch of the LDS Church. He presided over this branch until January 1, 1851, when he emigrated to America.

He and his wife and three small children, Elizabeth, Orson, and Addison, crossed the Atlantic on the sailing vessel "Ellen," together with John Crook and Henry Chatwin. Due to an accident the ship put in at North Wales for repair where they remained 18 days. They finally arrived in New Orleans on March 17, 10 weeks after setting sail. By May 2 they had arrived at Council Bluffs. In the spring of 1852, Thomas and another man secured a yoke of oxen, two yoke of cows and a wagon to make the trip across the plains. They came with the Eli B. Kelsey company and made the trip without any serious trouble.

Thomas Hicken resided in Provo seven or eight years, where he built two houses. While here he was active in military affairs, and served in the Black Hawk War. He moved to Heber City in 1860, where he was ordained a High Priest by Elisha Everett, Sr. In 1863 he was called as a special missionary to Summit and Morgan counties to advocate the Word of Wisdom. He was a diligent Church worker and held many offices in ecclesiastical and civil affairs, among them being presiding teacher in Heber City for eight years, and first counselor in Wasatch Stake High Priests' Quorum.

In 1880 he was ordained a patriarch by Daniel H. Wells and John Henry Smith. His personal record noted that he had given 466 blessings.

He was a fluent preacher and an inspiration wherever he went. At various times, in fast meetings, he was given the gift of speaking in tongues. He also had the gift of healing through the power of the priesthood, and many he administered to were healed in this way. At one time a very miraculous healing took place. A dear

HOW BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

neighbor, Christie Giles, was badly afflicted with a very large goiter that covered her entire neck in front. One Sunday morning she was very sick with it and while Patriarch Hicken was out doing his morning chores he was strongly impressed to go to her home. Seeing her condition, he got another elder, Brother Duke, and they went to her home and administered to her and she improved almost immediately. That same day she was prayed for in priesthood meeting and soon after, the goiter was entirely gone. Aunt Christie Giles bore testimony of this healing many times.

All hours of the day or night he was called out to administer to the sick. He took great pains to teach and train his family in the principles of the gospel, was of a gentle and kind disposition, with always a comforting word for those in distress.

As a farmer he raised flax and with the help of his wife prepared it for spinning, and furnished thread for all the community and clothing for his children.

In 1862, as polygamy was being practiced, Thomas Hicken married Mrs. Jane Clotworthy, a widow with four children, and helped her raise her family. Her children had great respect for him and his first wife, and his children respected the Clotworthy family.



He also married Margaret Powell as a plural wife in 1865, and they had five children. She was born in 1847 at Tipton, Staffordshire, England, coming to Utah in 1864 with her parents on the ship "General McClelland." They crossed the plains in Captain Joseph Rollin's train, walking all the way and arriving in Heber City on October 4, 1864. She was an active Church worker of great faith and had a strong testimony of the gospel. She helped with the sick and those in distress, as well as caring for the

dead. For 12 years she was president of the Heber Second Ward Primary, and was an accomplished seamstress, making beautiful wedding dresses, hats and bonnets. She loved flowers and always raised a beautiful flower garden. She died June 18, 1925, in Salt Lake City, and was buried in Heber City Cemetery.

In February, 1915, Thomas Hicken fell, and injured his hip, contracted pneumonia and died March 2, 1915, at the age of 88. His posterity in 1954, as nearly as could be determined, numbered nearly 900 persons.

His children were as follows:

- I. By Catherine Fewkes—
  - 1. Elizabeth.
  - 2. Orson.
  - 3. Addison.
  - 4. Thomas.
  - 5. Benjamin.
  - 6. John Henry.
  - 7. David William.
- II. By Margaret Powell—
  - 1. Maria Catherine.
  - 2. Sarah Ann.
  - 3. Rachel Emma.
  - 4. Charles Willard.
  - 5. Ruth.

Marie Howarth

HEBER CITY—Marie Jensen  
Locke Howarth, 67, died November  
14, 1985 in a  
Heber City hospital.



Born October  
10, 1918 in Roa-

ke, Idaho.

Married

April 10, 1948 in

Eko, Nevada.

Their marriage

was terminated

in 1967.

Married

April 10, 1968 in

Elko, Nevada.

Their marriage

was terminated

in 1970.

Married

April 10, 1970 in

Elko, Nevada.

Their marriage

was terminated

in 1971.

Married

April 10, 1971 in

Elko, Nevada.

Their marriage

was terminated

in 1972.

Married

April 10, 1972 in

Elko, Nevada.

Their marriage

was terminated

in 1973.

Married

April 10, 1973 in

Elko, Nevada.

Their marriage

was terminated

in 1974.

Married

April 10, 1975 in

Elko, Nevada.

Their marriage

was terminated

in 1976.

Married

April 10, 1977 in

Elko, Nevada.

Their marriage

was terminated

in 1978.

Married

April 10, 1979 in

Elko, Nevada.

Their marriage

was terminated

in 1980.

Married

April 10, 1981 in

Elko, Nevada.

Their marriage

was terminated

Gravemarker  
Needle worker  
Alice Locke  
(2) Giles Howarth

JAMES CHARLES McAFFEE



James Charles McAffee was the son of Samuel and Ann C. Baird. He was born March 10, 1875 at Charleston. His first wife was Prudence Julia Taylor, daughter of Heber Taylor and Elizabeth Mott. To this couple was born five children: Hazel, Nora, Dora, James Samuel, and Alberta. His second wife was Rosa Mitchell, daughter of George and Maggie Mitchell. His present wife, with whom he resides in Salt Lake City was May Whitney Fisher.

Although advanced in years, he is still active; tends his garden and raises beautiful flowers. He is a wonderful neighbor and friend.

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ERNEST AND EMMA  
KOHLER PROBST



Ernest Probst was born April 18, 1866 in Bern, Switzerland, the fifth child of Ulrich and Anna Barbara Keiner Probst. He married Emma Marie Kohler on February 13, 1895 in the Salt Lake Temple. He died in Midway July 1, 1936.

Emma Marie Kohler Probst was born November 18, 1871, at Bern, Switzerland. She died in Midway June 18, 1943.

With his parents, Ernest Probst emigrated to America in 1872, settling in Midway. Soon after they arrived they homesteaded

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*Gardner  
Farmer*

the land in the mouth of Snake Creek Canyon.

His early boyhood experiences included herding cattle in Snake Creek Canyon and raising and selling vegetables, along with other farm products to miners at the Dutchman mine and other locations. He attended the normal schools of the time.

While still a youth, Ernest learned the responsibilities of caring for a family. His father was called on a mission to Switzerland, and while he was away, two of the older boys in the family contracted a crippling disease, probably polio. Ernest had to assume much of the family responsibility with his mother.

After his marriage Ernest lived all his life in Midway. He engaged in farming and stock raising, and also hauled milk for the People's Creamery and the Mutual Creamery. He remained true and faithful to the Church, and during the last few years of his life engaged in much temple work. At his funeral he was described as "A man without any guile."

Emma Kohler Probst came to America with her parents at the age of 14, and though she couldn't speak English, desired very much to learn the language and attend school. She entered the first grade at the Midway School and within a year had attained the level of students her own age.

During her early life she spent much time working at the Schneitter's Resort, then owned by people named Monk. She was a beautiful seamstress and did much sewing for townspeople. Two years before her marriage she was privileged to attend the dedication of the Salt Lake Temple.

She always desired that her children be well educated and founded in the Church. She was deeply spiritual and devoted much time to the Church. She was a Primary and Relief Society teacher for 30 years, and was an ardent student of the scriptures. Few could surpass her in scriptural knowledge.

She engaged in temple work with her husband, and after his death spent the last seven years of her life in temple work.

Children of Ernest and Emma Probst included:

Joseph E. Probst;  
Emma, who died at the age of five;  
Mrs. Joseph (Alice) Jorgenson;  
Mrs. Harold (Grace) Ford;  
May Probst;  
Wilford, who died at six months;

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JOHN ULRICH AND SUSANNA GERTSCH PROBST

PAINTED UPON THE MOUNTAINS

MIDWAY BIOGRAPHIES

John Ulrich Probst, son of Ulrich Probst Sr., and Anna Barbara Kuefer, was born October 18, 1860 at Habstetten, Bern, Switzerland. He married Susanna Gertsch, December 18, 1891 in the Logan Temple. He died September 13, 1950 in Midway.

Susanna Gertsch Probst, a daughter of Conrad Gertsch Sr., and Margaretha or Margaretha Gertsch (no relation Gertsch) was born August 26, 1874 at Wengen, Bern, Switzerland.

John Probst came to Midway July 4, 1892 with his parents. They built a log house with a dirt roof up the Snake Creek. His schooling consisted of three years in Switzerland, some time in the old Midway School, and three winters in the German school. He also spent three months at the Brigham Young Academy in Provo.

He worked in the mountains chopping and hauling timber and cordwood for the mines in Park City. For about two and one-half years he worked in the same business at Newerville. Three years were spent in the potato mines. A log cabin was built for John Probst, Sr. and himself. In March and April they would take their mule of eaten and washed and haul the wood to the mines. He also spent part of one summer hauling logs from Caraboo Canyon to the Mill at where the Snake Creek turns its mouth. He also spent part of one summer hauling logs from Caraboo Canyon to the Mill at where the Snake Creek turns its mouth. He also spent part of one summer hauling logs from Caraboo Canyon to the Mill at where the Snake Creek turns its mouth. He also spent part of one summer hauling logs from Caraboo Canyon to the Mill at where the Snake Creek turns its mouth.

In the summer of 1888 he homesteaded 160 acres of land near St. Anthony, Idaho. In the fall of 1891 he met Susanna Gertsch who had just immigrated to Midway from Switzerland. They were married December 18, 1891 at the Logan Temple. He received a homestead in Switzerland on the 9th of April, 1895. He wrote the following from his home there:

"I sold two beef cows for \$100.00 each, a young five-year-old horse

weighing 1,100 pounds for \$45.00, another

for \$25.00. I received \$75.00 from Lundeen

for setting him in on the Probst ditch. All

told my wife and I had about \$400.00 for

our expenses and it took over \$100.00 to take

me to the field of labor. All then that I had

left was \$300.00.

Among the most interesting towns I

visited while on my mission was Cheyenne, Wyo. There I visited the old home we had

once lived in where the gospel message had

never brought to us by such men as Karl G.

Moser, Willard Richards, Theodore Brad-

ley, John Huber and others. It was also the place where we had been baptized and had gone to school.

Also I visited relatives of my wife in the Berns Overland. They were both surprised and happy to see me. It had been only four years since my wife had emigrated.

Farming and peddling was the occupation of John Ulrich Probst. Each Friday he would deliver fresh produce, eggs and chickens to the passengers of Park City. They had a log stable in kept a large flock of chickens, his wife, a turned Turner. Thursday was a busy day, cleaning chickens, churning butter, washing clothes and helping to prepare the meal. His wife was up at 5 a.m. on Friday preparing the meal, last, warming the tea now (in the winter) for his feet, while he harnessed the team. She also kept a hot meal waiting in case anyone would return which was often at 10 or 11 p.m.

Susanna Gertsch Probst attended the schools of Switzerland. Her earliest road to Zion was to go to Zion, Mo. or the Alps, crossing over and marching down to Sod, waiting at Zion or 11 p.m. to help with the support before coming to school.

In 1891, a storm came brought the gospel to her family. It was at a glorious time for them and November 1891 she was baptized in a cold stream of water by Conrad Abegg when the first song she remembered learning was, "Oh Babylon, O Babylon, We Bid Thee Farewell, We're Going to the Mountains of Zion, to Dwell." That is just what they did. The dear home that they loved was auctioned off, which provided money for their emigration to Zion.

The voyage over was a trying one, the family being seasick all the way. They arrived, however, in Spring of 1891, and came straight to Midway.

The following children were all born in the family home:

Clarence married Mary Christensen; Parley married Emma Christensen;

Frances married Alice Galli;

Nephi married Elizabeth Beck;

Root married Cleopha Richards;

Laura married Vernon Nelson;

Owen married Rosetta Bernards;

Iruth married Arthur Godfrey;

David married Vivienne Stevens;

Geneva married Elwin Cook;

Susanna Gertsch Probst has been a member and visiting teacher in Relief Society

all of her life, has received many awards for her faithfulness and perfect attendance records. She was also a faithful Primary teacher for several years.

John Ulrich and Susanna Gertsch Probst dedicated their golden wedding anniversary with their eleven children present. Four of their children fulfilled missions. At the time of their marriages all of the children were eligible for temple recommends and were married in the Temple. —

JEREMIAH AND RUTH  
TUCKER ROBEY



Jeremiah Robey, son of Jeremiah Robey and Mary Ogden Robey. Born April 14, 1809 in Harrison County, West Virginia.

Married Ruth Tucker November 7, 1833. Died November 22, 1903, Midway.

Ruth Tucker was born June 26, 1816 at Shinston, West Virginia, a daughter of Jeremiah and Ruth Ashcroft Tucker. She died in Midway, January 17, 1892.

Jeremiah Robey's parents were among the wealthy, prominent people of Harrison County and had a large family of sturdy sons and daughters. His mother was a sister to Susan Ogden Bigler, the mother of the late Bathsheba Bigler Smith, and grandmother of Edna and Juliena Smith, widows of the late President Joseph F. Smith.

In his early manhood Mr. Robey learned the trade of carpenter and cabinetmaker. He went from one place to another where carpenters were needed, always demanding a good wage. His uncle, Mark Bigler and wife Susan, had become members of the Church and had moved to Nauvoo. Mrs. Robey had also been converted, but her husband had not, he was away in Indiana on a carpenter job. Mrs. Robey decided to go to Nauvoo. She took her three little children and joined the Biglers there. They wrote Mr. Robey that work was plentiful in Nauvoo, so he met his family there in 1841. His wife had been a member of the Church for three years, but as yet he had not been converted.

When they arrived in Nauvoo, they were welcomed by his friends and uncle's family. After remaining in Nauvoo for a short time, he was converted to the Gospel, and was baptized in May, 1841, by the Prophet Joseph Smith. In October, 1842, he was ordained an Elder by Wilford Woodruff.

While in Nauvoo he worked unceasingly on the Temple and was the one to hang the last door. He went through all the trials and persecutions of the saints at that time, but never faltered in his faith. He was very much grieved over the martyrdom of Joseph and Hyrum. After he left Nauvoo he went to Pisgah, where he remained for a time and then went to Council Bluffs and from there he joined the David Wood Company and came to Utah, arriving in Provo in August, 1852. While in Provo, he, in company with Edwin Bunnell, worked as a cabinet-maker and carpenter. He settled in Provo on the advice of his cousin, George A. Smith, who said there was need of carpenters and cabinetmakers in that place. In 1859, he came to Midway and was one of the early settlers of Provo Valley. After arriving here he devoted most of his time to farming, as his second son, Jeremiah A. Robey, had learned the trade of carpentry and could handle most of the work here.

On November 7, 1833, he married Ruth Tucker, by whom he had ten children. In 1876, he went on a mission to his old home in West Virginia and met most of his relatives, whom he had not seen since 1841.

He was one of the pioneer bee-raisers of this valley, and he set out some of the first fruit trees—apple, pear and plum. He raised currants, gooseberries, and strawberries for his own table and had success with celery.

For a number of years he was recorder for the Snake Creek Mining District, and he held the position of school trustee for over thirteen years. He was a quiet, unassuming man. He lived to see his fifth generation and had a picture taken with them. He was always an earnest advocate of the gospel, and loved to bear his testimony to its truthfulness. He impressed upon his family and friends the knowledge he knew that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God. After the death of his wife in 1892, he made his home with his youngest daughter, Matilda Springer, until his death.

After an illness of one week, at the age of 94 years and seven months, he passed away. In his latter days he did a great

deal of temple work for his ancestors, both in the Salt Lake and Manti Temples.

Ruth came to Utah with her husband and five children, and settled in Provo. She joined the Church in her native state, West Virginia, in 1838, having been converted by some missionaries who were laboring in that section.

When she left with her children to go to Nauvoo she had no idea she would not return again to her West Virginia home and her people, but she never did, and never saw any of them again. She moved to Midway with her husband and family in the spring of 1859.

She endured many of the trials and hardships incidental to pioneer life, but was always cheerful and contented.

She was hospitable and made every one welcome in her home; no one was turned away hungry from her door. She was a good hand in sickness and helped many who were suffering and in pain. She was always kind to little children and was loved and revered by her grandchildren. At the death of her daughter, Susan, she took her three little motherless girls and reared them to womanhood, caring for them as though they were her very own. The girls were: Sarah Jane Ross, who married Henry Alexander, Jr.; Susan Ross, who married William O'Neil; and Lavernia Virginia Ross, who married Hiram Gould, and later Fred Eder.

She was a sweet singer and used to sing the old-fashioned songs, and tell stories of her early days and experiences in crossing the plains and during the early Indian troubles. She loved to bear her testimony to the truthfulness of the Gospel, and that Joseph Smith was a prophet of the Lord. She was loved and respected by all who knew her. She died very suddenly while sitting in her chair on a Sunday morning at the age of 75 years and six months. She is buried in the Midway Cemetery.

The children of Jeremiah and Ruth Tucker Robey were:

Theophilus Katen, married Sarah Mathews and later Maria Rolfe;

Mary Jane, married Sidney H. Epperson; Susan Luvernia, married James Ross; James Allison, died in infancy;

Maria and Sophia, twins, died in early childhood;

Jeremiah Albert, married Martha Dowdle; Matilda, married Nathan Springer; Twin boys, who died at birth.



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## JAMES D. SHANKS



James Dock Shanks was born November 29, 1833, at Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland. He came to Utah in September, 1853, crossing the plains with the Jacob Gates company, and settling in Salt Lake City. About the first job he obtained was helping build the wall around the temple block.

He was married December 21, 1855, to Isabella Muir, daughter of James and Mary Murray Muir, pioneers of 1853. Isabella was born August 15, 1837. Their children were Mary E. (Mrs. Gustave Waldberg), Isabella, James M., William, Marian (Mrs. William Doyle), Elizabeth (Mrs. William Fisher), John M., Margaret (Mrs. McEwan), Archibald (married to Lilly Duke), and George A.

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On March 10, 1875, he married Eva Erickson at Salt Lake City. She was the daughter of Eric Erickson and Fredericka Carlson of Upland, Sweden, who came to Utah by railroad. Their children were Catrina Amelia, Joseph, Louise, Josephine, Hyrum, Evelyn and Fredericka.

In 1899 he married Carline Homan at Salt Lake City. She was an immigrant from Germany. They had no family.

Anyone who has the sweet memory of being awakened by the music of the martial band on state occasions and celebrations will remember Jimmy Shanks as the leader and fife player of the group. He also took part in the Blackhawk War and was a member of the Thomas Todd Infantry Company. He was for many years the only tailor in our community.

He built three homes in Heber City. The grounds of each home was landscaped and beautified with flowers and shrubbery. He was really what is called today a "green thumb." He experimented with flowers, trees and shrubs to discover the best suited to our climate.

When stake conference convened at the Stake House and when the Sacrament meeting for Heber was held Sunday afternoons there, it was with pride and pleasure he carried beautiful stately bouquets to place on either side of the pulpit, on the three tiers of the rostrum. These bouquets were made with care and exactness, starting with a row of pansies and building up with flox and sweet william that were interspersed with blades of beautiful ribbon grass. They seemed to fit in with the stately stand and building.

In later years he and his good wife, Carrie, continued taking flowers to beautify the Third Ward chapel that had recently been built and of which he was very proud. He was a sincere Latter-day Saint, a High Priest of this stake, a home missionary and at one time superintendent of the Sunday School at Riverdale.

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Rex A. Whiting was born on March 25, 1918, to Bert Whiting and Sarah Nielson, at Mapleton, Utah. He attended elementary school at Mapleton and junior and senior high school in Springville, Utah. He graduated from high school in 1936 and also graduated from the Kolob Stake Seminary during his high school years. From Brigham Young University he received two years of pre-dental education and from there continued his education at the University of

Southern California, where he received the degree of doctor of dental surgery in 1942.

It was during his last year of dental college that he met and married Florine Merrill of Phoenix, Arizona.

In 1943 he entered the U. S. navy as an assistant dental surgeon, with the rank of lieutenant, junior grade. After receiving indoctrination in the navy at the naval ship yard at Mare Island, California, he was sent to the Solomon Island area of war in the South Pacific, where he served until the end of the war as a dentist attached to Fleet Hospital 107.

Upon his release from the navy he, with his wife and little girl, Carol, born while he was in the South Pacific, moved to Heber City, Wasatch County, Utah, where he practiced his profession of dentistry. In Heber, three more children were born to this family, one boy and two girls, Kirk, Anne and Kay. While in Heber he was active in the LDS Church, being superintendent of Heber First Ward Sunday School and later ward clerk of that ward. He was a member of the American Legion, VFW, Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce, Provo District Dental Society, Utah Dental Assn. and the American Dental Assn.

*Gardener  
Machinist  
Antique Motor  
Restorer  
Dentist*



tober 7, 1828, in parish of Namicullen Coun-

### JAMES THOMAS WILSON AND ISABELLA ROSS WILSON

James Thomas Wilson, son of Thomas Wilson and Jane Ellis Wilson. Born Oc-

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At the age of eleven, during a depression in Ireland, James, with his family moved to Scotland, where his father secured employment for himself as well as for his four sons. James Thomas being the youngest. Their employment was in the mines, or pit as it was called in Scotland.

During their years in Ireland, their father was employed as a gardener. He worked for the same man for thirty years at 24c per day, plus two plots of land for his own garden. James Thomas, at the age of six was given a special part of the gardening. Then at eleven years he went into the pit in Scotland to work at 9c per day. But even that small wage was a great help to his family.

Their wages were small, but with five people working, the family was well provided for. They had such wonderful privileges in this job. Their employer hired a school teacher, a music and dancing teacher for the children of his employees. This training was compulsory. The boys who were old enough to work must attend night school. If they so much as missed one night, they were laid off work for two weeks, and compelled to go to school during the day as well as at night, for the whole two weeks. Up to this time James Thomas had had just his Sunday School training and a very few days of schooling. He was very interested in his school work, and was considered one of the best students in the class.

James Thomas was a drawer, one who pushes cars on a track, to the coal to be

loaded. He was so quick, active and strong that he was much sought after. He was just fourteen years old. One day while pushing the coal car to be loaded, it slipped off the track. In an effort to place the car back on the track, his right leg was injured. From this injury he had a slight limp the rest of his life. He became so ill that he was sent to another town in Scotland to a hospital. The doctors could not understand his case. They decided to remove the limb. He would not give his consent, but found a ride home with a neighbor. He was still very ill and spent most of his time in bed.

He learned to knit stockings, cravets and gloves. This hobby proved to be a blessing to him. He sold the articles he made, which furnished his spending money. Then too, knitting seemed to calm his restlessness.

This continued for several years until February, 1846, he heard that a Mormon Elder would be in their town to preach. He was not able to attend, but his brother, William, went to the meeting, then came home and told James Thomas all that had been said. He sent his brother to invite the Elder to visit him in his room. He used his own money to buy some food for a lunch. Then, after serving Elder McNaughton refreshments, he listened to the first principles of the Gospel and to James the 1st chapter and 5th verse.

He was a very humble, prayerful boy. He decided he did lack wisdom, and decided to fast and pray for three days and four nights. On the fourth night a sign was given him that helped him to decide right from wrong. He was baptized into the LDS Church, by Elder Hugh Murray, April 15, 1846. He enjoyed his labors in the Duray Branch very much, and was advanced in the priesthood while laboring in that branch. Through fasting, prayer and administration by the Elders, James Thomas' leg was healed. So much so, that he went back on his job in the coal pit.

He soon began planning to emigrate to America and then on to Utah. He sailed for America February 11, 1852. Between eight and nine weeks later, he landed at the mouth of the Mississippi River, through the Gulf of Mexico, then to New Orleans. From New Orleans, they sailed on up the Mississippi to St. Louis, which was seven days of travel. At St. Louis they were given living quarters in a sort of camp for emigrants. While they were waiting for a company to

be formed to go to Salt Lake City, James Thomas found employment with Sheriff Smart of St. Louis. During this wait in camp to go on west, the cholera attacked them. The townspeople were so afraid they would catch the terrible disease, that they gathered teams and wagons and transported them all out in the desert. On May 15, 1852, the company, under the direction of A. O. Smoot, and C. Layton, began the trek to Salt Lake City. During this trip James Thomas was put in charge of A. O. Smoot's horses. That was his responsibility until he arrived in Salt Lake City. September 2, 1852, the company camped ten miles east of Salt Lake City. This was their last camp, so they celebrated by feasting on delicious tender beef, furnished by President Brigham Young, delivered by several people who came to meet the company and help them into the city. They were met by President Brigham Young and many Saints as they entered the city limits.

James Thomas did some work on the temple basement. He was working on this job when Daniel H. Wells asked him to come work for him. He accepted the position and worked for Daniel H. Wells as gardener and manager of gardens, yards and stock for six families. Garden plots were one and a quarter acres each.

By October 4, 1854, his mother, brothers William and George and sisters Mary and Rachel, arrived in Salt Lake City from Scotland. When he emigrated to America it was his intention to bring his family, all that were left, to America, then to Utah. He accomplished this in just two short years, working for sixteen dollars per month.

November 16, 1855, he married Isabella Ross. To this union six children were born. James B., his twin, Jered, still born. Thomas Ross, David John and Isabella R. His wife Isabella died June 24, 1865. They had been married almost ten years. She had accompanied him on his mission to Carson Valley in 1856, returning by request of President Brigham Young at the time of the general move of the Saints in 1858.

He married Emily Mollissia Hancock, October 9, 1867. Three children were born to them, Levi Ward, Emily Mollissia and Elizabeth Clayburn. These children did not live to maturity. In 1868 he sold his property in Salt Lake City to Daniel H. Wells, and moved to Midway, Wasatch County. Here he bought a log cabin and two lots,

for which he paid two hundred dollars cash. He also bought a farm, and settled down to hard work, but plenty to support his family of nine. But through the unhappiness of his wife, Mollissia, who obtained a separation from him, he returned to Salt Lake City, bought back the home he had sold to Daniel H. Wells and returned to his previous position as gardener for Brother Wells. August 1876 he left Salt Lake for a short-term mission in Ireland and Scotland. He crossed the Irish Channel from Belfast to Scotland and England eight times during his mission. In the town of Stewerton, near Glasgow, Scotland, he met a young woman by the name of Annie Walker. She came to Salt Lake City with him and became his wife February 8, 1877. During that same summer he sent passage for Annie's sister, Margaret Walker.

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In 1881 he left Utah for Mesa, Arizona. There he bought 40 acres of land and had a beautiful farm. From 1883 to 1886 he spent his winters in Mesa, Arizona, coming back to Midway in the spring, working in the White Pines, getting out timber, for the mines until late fall. In 1886 he sold his farm in Arizona and moved all his family back to Midway, where he spent the remainder of his life. In 1889 he was appointed Water Master on the east side of Snake Creek. This required the watering of all city lots. In 1890 he was elected Water Master to control the water of the Midway Irrigation Company.

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## HOW BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

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## MIDWAY BIOGRAPHIES

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## Phil Wright Elected

### to State Office

Mr. Phil Wright has just recently returned from a meeting of the Health Directors of Utah in St. George, Utah. Mr. Wright serves as president of the Utah Health Officers Association which is composed of Health Directors from every Health District in the State of Utah.

Mr. Wright is the Director of the Wasatch County Health Department located at 55 West Center, Heber. He is married to Kathryn Muhlestein and has seven children. He is a member

of the Heber Utah East Stake Presidency and is an active member of the community. He is a graduate of Brigham Young University where he obtained a Master of Science Degree in parasitology and he is a Registered Sanitarian. Prior to working for the County Health Department, Mr. Wright was an inspector for the State Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Wright has been influential in bringing several important health services to Wasatch County.



Phil Wright